

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

June 12, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Stephen	Brechbiel
Pearl	Burris-Floyd
Melvin	Diggs
Melanie	Hester
Nicole	Jimerson
Martin	Pharr
Lisa	Phillips
Vicki	Simmons
Deborah	Whitfield
Judy	Williams

Members Absent

Katherine	Allison
Cynthia	Bostic
Chad	Barefoot
Mark	Ezzell
Tammy	Holland
Bryan	Holloway
Susan	Humbert
Cathy	Kea
Ann	Maxwell
Carla	McNeill
Patricia	Naylor
Jana	Plemmons
Jill	Scercy

Staff

Tish	Bynum
Katie	Cornetto
Laura	Crumpler
Bill	Elvey
Carol Ann	Hudgens
William	Hussey
Mary	Jarrett
Kate	Neale

Visitors

Meredith	Darlington
Leanna	George
Caleb	George
Eric	Hall
Mary	LaCorte
Karen	Madrone
Brenda	Monforti

Welcome, Review of Agenda

Melanie Hester, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Council members, staff and visitors provided introductions and their position/relationship to the Council.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the March 2013 meeting minutes. The Council lacked a quorum to approve the minutes but will do so at the September 2013 meeting.

Review of Bylaws

- A proposal was made to align the membership language in the Bylaws to Article 9. Article 9 indicates a minimum of 24 members for the Council. The Bylaws state that the Council shall consist of 25 members. A proposal was made to change the Bylaws to reflect the language in Article 9, i.e., a minimum of 24 members.
- A proposal was made to add a representative from the state's Parent Training and Information Center (Exceptional Children's Assistance Center) to the Council.

Melvin Diggs facilitated the discussion on establishing committees. Melvin will review/revise the functions of the Council as outlined in Article 9 and align the committees and their roles incorporating the Council members' discussions.

State Monitoring Mechanism

Jill Scercy previously requested a recap of the State's continuous improvement focused monitoring system for the Council. Ira Wolfe, Section Chief of the Policy, Monitoring & Audit Section, provided a handout and discussed the six types of monitoring activities of the EC Division.

1. Continuous Improvement Performance Plan (CIPP)
2. Program Compliance Onsite Review
3. Targeted On-site Visit
4. Focused Monitoring
5. LEA Program Assessment
6. Data Base Review – Indicators 4B, 9, 10, 11, and 12

Charter School Law

Laura Crumpler, Assistant Attorney General, advised that the SBE is the only state agency established in the state constitution. Its duties are clearly defined to supervise and administer the free public education in NC.

Charter Schools are operated by nonprofit, private corporations. Charter schools receive federal funds and must comply with federal law, including IDEA.

Agency Updates

Bill Hussey is the new Director of EC Division. He will be meeting with advocacy groups (Duke Law Clinic, Disability Rights NC, etc.) to begin a dialogue. The focus for the Division is ensuring a strong relationship with LEAs, CASE, families, advocacy groups and the Council. The goal is to be proactive and to make sure communication is open. There will be a leadership team retreat to review the Division's mission and strategic plan.

Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Update – Given the current academic rigor, the focus has changed.

Bill reviewed a current draft of the PRTF bill. Key issues are ensuring that PRTFs have required educational programs and making PRTFs responsible for the provision of FAPE. The PRTFS will have the status of an LEA. Therefore, due process/administrative hearings would flow through PRTF. Funding process is unknown at this time.

HB587 – ACT – relates to OCS and Extend1 students being required to take ACT. This bill has gone through many versions. Senate review for final approval should occur today. Extend1 and OCS Extend2 students are being allowed to take an alternate to the ACT. In spring 2014 they will be able to take a statewide pilot alternate. The plan outlining the alternate testing will be available fall 2014 but no assessment. EC Division contacted OSEP about the function narrowness of the plan to see if OSEP would consider relieving NC of discrimination. OSEP decision is pending.

HB 317 – Improve Education for Children who are Deaf – EC Division disagreed with original legislation. The content was already covered by IDEA. The legislation was reborn this year in a more suitable fashion. This will be law soon. Communication Planning sheet used previously as a guide for HH student

services is now more of a prescribed purpose that exceeds federal law. If a parent states considering residential school, then a residential school representative has to be at next IEP meeting.

HB 838 – EC Study Commission – legislation to develop committee to discuss/review various EC issues like paperwork, class size. If bill passes, it is set up to start sometime next year. It will be a fairly extensive look at special education, especially funding which has not been address in last 20 years. Individuals not on study commission will be invited. Parents, school teachers, school administrators will also be included in the conversation.

Meeting adjourned.